

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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1. There is no actual strong drive for the Russification of Lithuania, but the number of Russian settlers is constantly increasing. In addition to Russian troops, which rotate but are present in strong numbers, there is a great influx of purely Russian bureaucratic personnel in all State agencies. Russians are concentrated in urban areas. Despite rumors,  no moves to settle Russian farmers in Lithuania. The Russian-speaking population of Lithuania has also been considerably increased by a great number of former Soviet officers who, after their demobilization in 1945 and 1946, chose to stay in Lithuania. This was officially forbidden, but a great many engineers, mechanics, and agronomists succeeded in obtaining employment there and settling down.
2. One of the older groups of Russian settlers in Lithuania, the Starovertsy (Old Believers), who have been living in Lithuania for a long time, was severely affected by the deportations in 1948 and 1949. Whole settlements around Jonava (N 55-04, E 24-15) were transferred to the USSR.
3. The Polish minority has become smaller. After the reoccupation of Lithuania in 1944, all Lithuanians were mobilized for military service, while those who considered themselves Poles were given an opportunity to return to Poland, from 1944 to 1946. Therefore, many Lithuanians who had some Polish background claimed to be Poles. They and the real Poles have left Lithuania.
4. The Jewish minority remains almost as small as after World War II, though there are some returnees from the USSR. Regardless of the small number of Jews in Lithuania, anti-Semitism is reportedly strong among Lithuanians and Russians.
5. Although the Lithuanians who consider themselves to be nationalists do not display a friendly attitude towards the new Russians, there are no serious frictions between the two nationalities. Russian employees and Party members are officially required to learn Lithuanian, but, practically, Russian is becoming more and more the language of communication. Lithuanian primary schools conduct instructions in Lithuanian; Russian is being taught as a foreign language, beginning with the fifth or sixth grades.

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6. The collective farming system dominates all agricultural activity. Private ownership has been practically reduced to nothing, though, officially, small holdings of about three hectares were still permitted in 1952. The collective farms are mostly less productive than the State farms, which receive strong support from State agencies and compare favorably even with pre-Soviet standards.
7. Most of the farmers are, however, dissatisfied with their lot and try by all possible means to divert as much as possible of the collective farm production and work to their own advantage. Blackmarketing in food is very heavy, especially because certain items are not always available on the market. A considerable amount of food does not really go into the blackmarket but is simply sold to relatives in the towns. The urban population cannot afford as much food as before World War II, because prices are comparatively high and earnings low.
8. The policing of the Lithuanian SSR is done in the same way as in other republics of the USSR. In addition to the republic and local militia units under the jurisdiction of the MVD, there is also a considerable number of the MVD border troops, since Lithuania borders on Poland, which is considered a foreign country. The border troops are mostly Russian. The republic militia is composed of Lithuanian and Russian personnel, but the higher positions are held by Russians. In rural areas, there is also an auxiliary police force recruited from local rowdies. These are called into action irregularly and are feared and despised by the local population, which calls them strebich ikai or strebittelai from the Russian istrebiteli (exterminators). Since they are recruited exclusively from Lithuanians, they are considered traitors by the more nationalistically minded Lithuanians.
9. There is no longer any organized resistance movement in Lithuania. Immediately after the return of the Soviets in 1944 and until about 1946 - 1947, there were still partisans in the forests, but they were partly liquidated and partly lured out of their hiding places by an amnesty in 1946 - 1947. Prospects for underground activity are at present as dim as in any other Soviet republic. The psychological preparedness of the average Lithuanian for resistance is, however, very much present. At the outbreak of the Korean War, a wholesale buying-up of food products occurred in Lithuania, and at that time increased precautionary measures were taken by the MVD. Russians generally consider Lithuanians less reliable than Latvians.

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